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BEGINNING with January, 1898, the *American Geologist* will contain an alphabetical author catalogue of articles relating to the geology of North America. Each month's issue will include titles of articles received up to the 20th of the preceding month. Sheets containing this catalogue will be mailed monthly to libraries or individuals at $1.00 per year, provided a sufficient number of orders are received to cover the expense.

THE London *Times* states that the inaugural general meeting of the Automobile Club of Great Britain took place on December 8th, at the Club premises, 4 Whitehall Court, Mr. Roger W. Wallace being in the chair. The objects for which this institution has been established are described as the encouragement and development of the motor and allied industries in England, and one of its leading characteristics is that it is to be essentially a members' club, conducted quite independently of any personal interests. It aims at affording its members support in the protection and defence of their rights where menaced and at being a social club where they may obtain information and advice on all matters appertaining to motor vehicles. At the meeting yesterday the chairman gave a brief review of the position and policy of the Club, and certain routine business was transacted in connection with its organization and the formal opening of its premises for the use of members. Afterwards there was a display of various types of motor vehicles, which conveyed members and their friends for trial runs along Whitehall Court and the Thames Embankment.

UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

SIR W. C. MCDONALD, whose gifts to McGill University have already been very generous, has just given an additional two hundred and fifty thousand dollars to the institutution. Fifty thousand dollars of this sum is to be used as an endowment in strengthening the law faculty, and the remaining two hundred thousand dollars is for the scientific departments.

A TRAVELLING fellowship, of the value of $500, has been established at Haverford College, through a gift of some of the alumni.

THE contest over the will of the late William Lampson, bequeathing about $500,000 to Yale University, has been dismissed by the lower courts, but it is said that the case will be carried to the Supreme Court.

THE will of the late Mrs. Julia B. H. James makes the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Boston Museum of Arts her residuary legatees.

ON the early morning of December 18th Pardee Hall, the building containing most of the scientific departments of Lafayette College, was destroyed by fire, with the exception of the east wing. The loss on the building is probably covered by insurance, but valuable collections have been lost. The original building was erected at a cost of over $200,000, the gift of Mr. Ario Pardee, and was completely destroyed by fire in 1879.

THE registration in the University of Michigan is reported as follows:

Literary	1,297
Law	723
Medical	431
Engineering	274
Dental	220
Pharmacy	77
Homœopathic	60
Total	3,083

THE registration in the different schools of Columbia University on November 7, 1895, 1896 and 1897, respectively, was 1806, 1796 and 2033, exclusive of students of Barnard College and auditors. The college of Columbia University is small, containing only 312 students, but the graduate and professional schools have about the same number of students as the corresponding schools of Harvard University—namely, 1,762 at Harvard and 1792 at Columbia. The entrance classes in Columbia have decreased this year—582 as against 651 in 1896, the loss being in the Medical and Law Schools.

THE Cornell University Register, of which we have received an advance copy, shows a gain in numbers, the total to date being 1,790 as against 1,763 at this time last year. The University now shows the largest registration ever reached at this point in the academic year, and with the usual growth during the year it will have be-

tween 1,800 and 1,900 students in the spring term. The number of students entering the College of Civil Engineering and the College of Agriculture shows large percentages of increase, and the attendance in the New York State Veterinary College is somewhat increased. 431 degrees were conferred in June, 1897, an increase of 50 over any preceding year.

Dr. Waldemar Lindgren, of the U. S. Geological Survey, will deliver a course of lectures on mining and metallurgy at Stanford University, but has not accepted a permanent appointment, as has been announced.

Miss Julia Snow, Ph.D. (Munich), has been appointed instructor in Botany in the University of Michigan.

Dr. W. H. R. Rivers, of St. John's College, Cambridge University, has been appointed university lecturer in experimental psychology. Mr. W. L. H. Duckworth, of Jesus College, has been recognized as a lecturer in anthropology.

Mr. J. W. W. Stephens, B.A., M.B., Caius and Gonville, has been elected John Lucas Walker Student in Pathology, Cambridge University, *vice* Mr. L. Cobbett, M.A., M.B., Trinity; and Mr. H. K. Wright, M.D., C.M., McGill University, Montreal, has been awarded an exhibition of the value of £50 from the John Lucas Walker Fund.

DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE.

THE AGONOID GENUS PERCIS OF SCOPOLI.

The generic name *Percis* of Scopoli has been universally forgotten, but must be revived, and lest it should be overlooked in the great work of Drs. Jordan and Evermann I would call attention to it now. The genus for which the name was proposed by Scopoli is generally known as *Hippocephalus* of Swainson (1839). It was, however, well defined by Scopoli in 1777, and based on the *Cottus japonicus* of Pallas. The description will be found in Scopoli's 'Introductio ad Historiam Naturalem' (p. 454). The only species mentioned was *Percis japonicus*.

The genus *Percis* is the representative of a sub-family distinguished from the *Agoninæ* by the anterior position of the first dorsal fin and may be called *Percidinæ*. The other genera are *Agonomalus* and *Hypsagonus*.

Washington, D. C. Theo. Gill.

SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE.

RECENT MATHEMATICAL BOOKS.

Elements of Plane and Spherical Trigonometry. By Edwin S. Crawley, Assistant Professor of Mathematics in the University of Pennsylvania. Second edition, revised and enlarged. Philadelphia, E. S. Crawley. 8vo. Pp. 178.

In the writing of a text-book on Trigonometry there is now-a-days practically no opportunity for any assertion of individuality. The subject is of small extent, definitely bounded, and crystallized into final shape. There is, indeed, a possibility of trimming the treatment down to the absolutely indispensable part of plane trigonometry, which might then be gone over by a class in ten weeks or even less. But the whole tendency is the other way, and chapters on trigonometric equations, De Moivre's theorem, etc.—in short, a pretty complete discussion of the whole field—are now demanded in a text-book. The teacher must decide for himself how much of the whole material he will cover, and he will do well to bear in mind two facts, or rather two phases of the same fact, viz: (1) that teachers of applied mathematics constantly complain that their students do not bring to them a practical working knowledge of trigonometry; (2) that no student, however gifted or however taught, ever fully understands his elementary mathematics until he has gone through the Calculus.

Professor Crawley's book first appeared in 1890. The present second edition has been revised and enlarged by: (1) the adoption of definitions of the trigonometric functions applicable to angles of any magnitude; (2) the addition of a large number of exercises to illustrate the best methods of trigonometric reduction and analysis; (3) a large increase in the number and variety of the examples; (4) additional theorems on the described circles and Brocard's points; (5) a new chapter on De Moivre's theorem and the hyperbolic functions. A previous knowledge of logarithms is expected of the student, and the book is without tables. The plane trigonometry occupies 119 pages, and